

## METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING MICROBIAL PROLIFERATION GENES

### Abstract of the Disclosure

A method for identifying endogenous microbial proliferation genes for growth and viability is disclosed herein. The method involves exogenous nucleic acids that are used to conditionally produce antisense inhibitors of endogenous complementary mRNAs in a microorganism. Antisense fragments that result in lethality when expressed indicate that the endogenous gene is a proliferation gene. The method can also be used with sequences in sense orientation. The strategy can be used to identify new gene targets for novel antibiotics.

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